Poky Linux with IMGUI Demo on Raspberry π

Kaloyan Krastev*

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^{*}Triple Helix Consulting

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table of contents

1	intr	oduction	on	4
2	met	adata		5
	2.1	structu	ire	5
		2.1.1	recipes	5
		2.1.2	targets	5
		2.1.3	layers	5
	2.2	meta-ti	hc	6
	2.3		ation	
3	con	figurati	ion	11
	3.1	directiv	ves	11
		3.1.1	BB_DISKMON_DIRS	11
		3.1.2	DISTRO	
		3.1.3	DISTRO_FEATURES	12
			IMAGE_FEATURES	
		3.1.5	IMAGE_FSTYPES	
		3.1.6	IMAGE_OVERHEAD_FACTOR	
		3.1.7	INHERIT	
		3.1.8	INIT_MANAGER	
		3.1.9	MACHINE	
		3.1.10	MACHINE_FEATURES	13
			PACKAGE CLASSES	13
		3.1.12	PACKAGE INSTALL	14
		3.1.13	SANITY_TESTED_DISTROS	14
			TCLIBC	
	3.2	classes		14
		3.2.1	rm_work	

4 build			16	
	4.1	requirements		 16
	4.2	environment		 17
	4.3	flow		 17
5	inst	tall		19
6	run	1		20
7	outl	clook		22

1 introduction

These interactive instructions[7] follow the configuration and build of a Linux-based operating system (OS) for Raspberry $\pi[9]$ with Yocto[3]. Find project overview in [8].

The OS build is done in several steps organized in corresponding sections as follows. Read in Section 2 how to fetch *metadata*. Section 3 shows how to configure the OS build. In Section 4 learn how to build the OS *image* and see how to copy *image* to SD card in Section 5. Section 6 is dedicated to post-install issues like the configuration of the WiFi interface from the command line.

2 metadata

In current context, *metadata* is a set of *instructions* to build *targets*. The build configuration is managed via files with extension conf. They define configuration variables to control the build process.

2.1 structure

Basic concepts needed to understand *metadata* structure follow.

2.1.1 recipes

The *instructions* are organized as *recipes* in files with the bb extension. There are also files with the bbappend extension designed to modify *recipes* and *bitbake classes* with the suffix bbclass for instructions shared between *recipes*. See a full list of *metadata* file types in Table 2.

2.1.2 targets

The target may be a software (SW) package or group of packages. The target may also be a complete OS image.

2.1.3 layers

Metadata is organized in layers. Layers logically separate information of a project. Table 1 presents OpenEmbedded[2] metadata layer types.

The complete list of github SW metadata repositories used in this project includes Yocto layers, the Raspberry π board support package (BSP) layer, a SW layer with custom recipes, and the build configuration itself. Please refer [8] for details.

layer type	contents	
base	base metadata for the build	
machine aka BSP	hardware (HW) support	
distribution	policy configuration	
SW	additional SW	
miscellaneous	do not fall in upper categories	

Table 1: metadata layer types defined by OpenEmbedded[2]

file type	extension	purpose
recipe	bb	SW build instructions
recipe	bbappend	SW recipe modification
class	bbclass	shared instructions
config	conf	build directives
config	inc	shared build directives

Table 2: metadata file types

In short, users fetch metadata in contrast to the real data fetched later during the OS build. See Section 4 for details. It means that users decide where to store fetched metadata. It is nice to have all layer sub-directories in one system location. In these instructions it is referred as <META-DIR>. The second directory to create is the <BUILD-DIR>. This is where the build and the build configuration live. I suggest that <BUILD-DIR> one is not inside <META-DIR> to not mix data and metadata.

2.2 meta-thc

Following the *OpenEmbedded metadata* classification, meta-thc is a SW layer as there are SW recipes. On the other hand, it is a distribution layer because it defines a new distribution based on *poky*.

See <META-DIR>/thc/meta-thc/conf/distro/thc.conf. In addition, there is an *image* recipe to build a target in <META-DIR>/thc/meta-thc/recipes-core/images/core-image-thc.bb.

This allows for an effective isolation of machine, distribution and image features of the OS. The layer includes also shell scripts to clone metadata and to export the OS image on SD-card. These may be found in <META-DIR>/thc/meta-thc/bin. Learn more in following sections. See next full list of <META-DIR>/thc/meta-thc.

```
bin
         burn
         metafetch
         yoctoinit
    classes
         thclass.bbclass
         thconf.bbclass
         distro
              thc.conf
         layer.conf
    recipes-core
         dhcpcd
              dhcpcd %.bbappend
              core-image-thc.bb
         init-ifupdown
              init-ifupdown %.bbappend
         thcp
              thcp
                   rpip
                   toprc
                   wifini.sh
              \begin{array}{l} thcp\_0.0.1.bb \\ thcp\_0.1.0.bb \\ thcp\_1.0.0.bb \end{array}
    recipes-sw
         glfw
              glfw_3.3.3.bb
              glfw_3.3.8.bb
         imgui
              imgui
                   imgui.ini
              imgui 0.0.1.bb
              imgui_0.1.0.bb
              imgui 1.0.0.bb
    CODE OF CONDUCT.md
    CONTRIBUTING. md
    LICENSE
    README
15 directories, 26 files
```

2.3 automation

There is a shell script to clone all metadata from public github repositories. It may serve people to build their own OS for $Raspberry \pi$. The script performs metadata fetch, the bitbake initialisation and a simple metadata verification.

```
FETCHER=https://github.com/
GITFETCHER=git@github.com:
BRANCH=kirkstone
LONGSFX=\$ (head -c 1000 /dev/random | tr -dc 'a-z')
SFX=\$(expr " \$LONGSFX" : ".*\(.\{3\}\)")
unset LONGSFX
DEFMETADIR=$HOME/yocto/$SFX/metadata
DEFBUILDIR=$HOME/yocto/$SFX/rpi4
TARGET=core-image-thc
XNAME=$(basename $0)
say() { printf ":: $XNAME :: $*\n"; }
        say $* && exit 0 || kill $$; }
   printf "
                                              \t wet run
    die
confirm() { # get confirmation or quit
    read -p "please confirm (y/n) " choix
    [ "$choix" == "y" ] && say confirmed || die
 "$SFX" | || die try again
while getopts ":m:b:r:hgd" option; do # parce command-line options
```

```
case $option in
        m ) METADIR=$OPTARG;;
        b ) BUILDIR=$OPTARG;;
            BRANCH=$OPTARG;;
        r
          ) FETCHER=$GITFETCHER;;
        g
        d ) DRYRUN=yes;;
        h ) use;;
        * ) use;;
    esac
done
                   METADIR=$DEFMETADIR
               | BUILDIR=$DEFBUILDIR
 -d $METADIR | | mkdir -p $METADIR | | die $? cannot create $METADIR -d $BUILDIR | mkdir -p $BUILDIR | die $? cannot create $BUILDIR
METADIR=$(realpath $METADIR) && say "metadata:\t $METADIR" || die $? cannot find
   $METADIR
BUILDIR=$(realpath $BUILDIR) && say "build: \t $BUILDIR" || die $? cannot find
   $BUILDIR
say "branch:\t $BRANCH"
say "protocol:\t $FETCHER"
declare —A REPO
REPO=( # associative git repository array
     [yoctoproject/poky.git]=$METADIR/poky
     openembedded/meta-openembedded.git]=$METADIR/oe
     agherzan/meta-raspberrypi]=$METADIR/rpi/meta-raspberrypi
     kaloyanski/meta-thc.git]=$METADIR/thc/meta-thc
     TripleHelixConsulting/rpiconf.git]=$BUILDIR/conf
 "$DRYRUN" | || confirm
for repo in ${!REPO[@]}; do # clone repositories
    command="git clone -b $BRANCH $FETCHER$repo ${REPO[$repo]}"
    say $command
    [ "$DRYRUN" ] || $command
[ "$DRYRUN" ] && die
sed -i s#/home/yocto/layer#$METADIR#g $BUILDIR/conf/bblayers.conf || die sed $?
OEINIT=oe-init-build-env
cd $METADIR/poky && pwd || die $? cannot find $METADIR/poky
[ -f $OEINIT ] && . ./$OEINIT $BUILDIR || die $? cannot find $OEINIT
bitbake-layers show-layers
echo && say "how to start a new build"
printf "
```

Download metafetch here. Note the associative array of repository remote and local system path. The script is designed in a way that after a successful run one may start a build with bitbake. The script takes <META-DIR> and <BUILD-DIR> from the commandline. You may use next examples to run metafetch. Running the script without command-line options like the first example results in some default configuration. You may want to specify custom directories like the second example. Otherwise the script will use default values. The default github protocol is https but I recommend using git because it is an order of magnitude faster. You may need to configure your $secure\ shell\ (SSH)$ connection on github.com. Use the command-line option -g to switch protocol. The default git branch is kirkstone. Try metafetch-h to see all command-line options.

```
./metafetch
./metafetch -m <META-DIR> -b <BUILD-DIR>
./metafetch -g
```

3 configuration

Build configuration is in <BUILD-DIR>/conf, check files local. conf and bblayers.conf. Yocto layers are specified in bblayers.conf. The build directives are in local.conf. Variables in this file control the build. Sometimes I call these directives to avoid repetitions. To not mix them, I have isolated target HW specific directives. Two possible targets are defined in <BUILD-DIR>/conf/raspberrypi4-64.inc and <BUILD-DIR>/conf/qemuarm64.inc. The host configuration is optional. See the bottom lines in <BUILD-DIR>/conf/local.conf for details. Note the difference between the optional include and not optional require. The latter will interrupt the build configuration if the corresponding file does not exist.

3.1 directives

Many variables are not covered here. Please refer bitbake[11] documentation for details. It is not always easy to understand the meaning and their relations. What is more, bitbake syntax is pretty complicated. In short, your life can easily become unbearable if the build configuration is too long. See next a list of important build configuration directives.

3.1.1 BB_DISKMON_DIRS

This bitbake variable enables free storage space verification. Users may add rules to monitor as many directories as they wish. Of course, it makes sense to add only directories on different storage partitions. The directive contains rules to trigger actions in case of low storage space during builds. Possible actions are WARN, STOPTASKS and HALT. Rules are defined in the following format.

3.1.2 DISTRO

This is the short name of the OS distribution. *Yocto* provides four variants of their reference distribution called *Poky*. See details in <META-DIR>/poky/meta-poky/conf/distro/poky*.conf. Some distribution dependent directive values are presented in Table 3.

3.1.3 DISTRO FEATURES

Distributions can select which features they want to support through the DISTRO_FEATURES variable, which is set in the distribution configuration file.

3.1.4 IMAGE FEATURES

This directive controls the contents of the OS image. Different predefined packages could be added, removed or modified via this variable. Useful examples for image features are allow-empty-password, allow-root-login, empty-root-password, post-install-logging, splash, package-management and ssh-server-dropbear.

3.1.5 IMAGE FSTYPES

This is another important directive. Here I have removed archived images to decrease the built time and added the wic format. One may want to use the wic command-line tool to list the partitions on a $wic\ image$. See how to copy wic to an SD card in Section 5.

3.1.6 IMAGE_OVERHEAD_FACTOR

This defines the free storage space on the **root** partition. Overhead factor of 2 means that the free space will be equal to the space already used by the OS. This will double the size of the image. The default value of 1.3 increases image size with 30%.

3.1.7 **INHERIT**

This is a list of included bitbake classes. See Section 3.2.

3.1.8 INIT MANAGER

The OS init process could be sysvinit, systemd or mdev-busybox.

3.1.9 MACHINE

No doubt, this is the most important directive, set here to raspberrypi4-64. You may want to change this value if you build an OS for a different HW. If you want to emulate $Raspberry \pi$ on your host machine with qemu, set MACHINE to qemuarm64. I confirm that this works although I did not find this approach very useful to test a $graphical\ user\ interface\ (GUI)$.

3.1.10 MACHINE FEATURES

This directive controls machine features. It is set in the machine configuration file and specifies the hardware features for a given machine.

3.1.11 PACKAGE CLASSES

There are different package formats used in various Linux-based OS's to distribute and manage programs. Both Debian package format -

deb and rpm from RedHat do well, but recently I had issues with ipk so I disabled it.

3.1.12 PACKAGE INSTALL

This is where to specify additional SW packages. This is useful for packages not included in the *image* by default. In my experience, the default OS has all necessary programs or compact alternatives. However this is the directive used to append *imgui*.

3.1.13 SANITY TESTED DISTROS

This is a list of tested *GNU* is not *UNIX* (GNU)/Linux distributions. Using another distribution is not prohibited, but a warning messages is generated each time *bitbake* is run. One may want to append the host machine Linux distribution to get rid of this warning. See next examples for users of rolling releases from *Manjaro* and *OpenSuse*.

```
SANITY_TESTED_DISTROS: append = " manjaro"
SANITY_TESTED_DISTROS: append = " tumbleweed-*"
```

3.1.14 TCLIBC

The GNU standard C library variant to use during the build. Available options are glibc, musl, newlib and baremetal.

3.2 classes

3.2.1 rm work

Find bitbake classes in <META-DIR>/poky/meta/classes. For example rm_work.bbclass defines a specific task for packages to remove intermediate files generated during the build. This decreases storage

config file	INIT_MANAGER	TCLIBC	status
poky.conf	sysvinit	glibc	fine
poky-bleeding.conf	sysvinit	glibc	unknown
poky-altcfg.conf	systemd	glibc	unknown
poky-tiny.conf	mdev-busybox	musl	unknown

Table 3: reference distribution configurations

space about twice. Those who want to keep the working data and have enough storage space may comment the next line in local.conf.

INHERIT: append = " rm_work"

4 build

It is very likely that you will need to install *Yocto* requirements[4] to be able to run *bitbake*. The list of *Yocto* sanity checked distributions currently includes *poky-3.3*, *poky-3.4*, *Ubuntu-18.04*, *Ubuntu-20.04*, *Ubuntu-22.04*, *Fedora-37*, *Debian — 11*, *OpenSUSEleap-15.3* and *AlmaLinux-8.8*. But I use *bitbake* on *Manjaro —* a not officially supported GNU/Linux distribution. That is why I guess that it should not be complicated to satisfy requirements on a GNU/Linux machine. Of course, binary files are not the same on different HW architectures, but the OS has a Linux kernel and standard open-source programs.

4.1 requirements

Ensure that the following packages are installed.

- *git*
- tar
- python
- *gcc*
- GNU make

Find more details in *Yocto* documentation at [4]. You may need to install in addition diffstat, unzip, texinfo, chrpath, wget, xterm, sdl, rpcsvc-proto, socat, cpio, lz4, gawk, findutils, crypt, mtools and inetutils. As a double check, make sure to have the following command-line tools on your host machine: chrpath, diffstat, lz4c, rpcgen, bash, bzip2, file, grep, patch, sed and mdir.

Fetched metadata requires only 412 MB of free space. In contrast the OS build may need up to 30 GB or even 50 GB if intermediate files are kept. Read about the bitbake class rm work in Section 3.

4.2 environment

To initialise build environment navigate to <META-DIR>/poky and source the initialization script like the next command.

source oe-init-build-env <BUILD-DIR>

Alternatively verify and source the dedicated *portable operating* system interface (POSIX) script <META-DIR>/thc/meta-thc/bin/yoctoinit. The initialization script will change the system path to <BUILD-DIR>. Now you may want run next command to check project layers.

bitbake-layers show-layers

core - image - thc is a compact OS image with a X server and a running GUI[5] example. The primary build tool of OpenEmbedded based projects, such as the Yocto project is bitbake. Run next command to build the OS.

bitbake core-image-thc

Unless your host machine is a supercomputer, this will take at least two hours. Find a list of tasks performed by *bitbake* for a typical SW package in Table 4. If a build is interrupted during the fetch task, this could be the connection with a server. A simple rerun of *bitbake* may solve this issue.

4.3 flow

The build happens in <BUILD-DIR>. Table 5 presents a list of important <BUILD-DIR> sub-directories.

task	description	
do_fetch	fetch the source code	
do_unpack	unpack the source code	
do_patch	apply patches to the source	
do_configure	source configuration	
do_compile	compile the source code	
do_install	copy files to the holding area	
do_populate_sysroot	copy files to the staging area	
do_package	analyse holding area	
do_package_qa	check quality	
do_package_write_rpm	deploy SW package in rpm format	
do_package_qa	quality checks on the package	

Table 4: bitbake tasks

Source archives are saved in the download directory. They are extracted, configured, compiled and installed in the work directory. Built packages are stored in the package directory. Finally, following the build configuration packages are unpacked to create the OS image found in the image directory. The build flow is summarised in Table 5.

name	location	description
configuration	conf	build configuration files
download	downloads	fetched SW source code archives
work	tmp/work	working directory
package	tmp/deploy/rpm	final SW packages in rpm format
image	tmp/deploy/images	boot files, kernels and images

Table 5: bitbake workflow

5 install

The OS includes a kernel ARM, 64 bit boot executable image of 23 MB, a $Raspberry \pi$ configuration of Linux 5.15. This is a $long - term \ support$ (LTS) kernel release. The total size of kernel modules is 21 MB.

Yocto provides multiple package and *image* formats. Different ways exist to install *images* on SD card. The OS has two partitions - /root and /boot. There are no *swap* and *home* partitions.

I recommend the classic command-line tool dd to copy data. It works fine with different image formats like rpi-sdimg, hddimg and wic. The last one is recommended. Find the SD card device name, in example dev/<xxx>, unmount it with umount if mounted, and do copy data with the next command.

dd if=core-image-thc-raspberrypi4-64.wic of=/dev/<xxx> status=progress

- note 1: run this command in <BUILD-DIR>/tmp/deploy/images/raspberrypi4-64
- note 2: run this command with *root* privileges
- note 3: be careful to not specify the device name of your hard drive (see note 2)

Alternatively, there is a dedicated POSIX shell script - <META-DIR>/thc/meta-thc/bin/burn. Use the command-line option -h for details. The transfer does not take a lot of time. When it is over, replace the card to $Raspberry \pi$ and turn it on. That's it.

6 run

Wireless connection is established via classic command-line tools like ip[1] and iw. The dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) client is udhcpc[1], and wpa_passphrase[10] stores WiFi connections. A dedicated POSIX shell script named wifini.sh is installed in /usr/bin, as well as a running GUI example to demonstrate the usage of the Dear ImGui[5] library. The last one is configured to start automatically on boot in /home/root/.profile.

```
MYNAME='basename $0'
WPACONF=/etc/wpa_supplicant.conf
IFCONF=/etc/network/interfaces
WPAPASS=/usr/bin/wpa passphrase
IW=/usr/sbin/iw
WPASUPP=/usr/sbin/wpa supplicant
DHCP=/sbin/udhcpc
IP=/sbin/ip
die() { echo $MYNAME $* && exit 0; }
say() { echo $MYNAME $*; }
auto() { # enable wifi connection on boot
     patch=auto\ $WIFACE
     say $patch
     grep "$patch" $1 > /dev/null || printf "
$patch
" >> $1;
 "$USER" == "root" | || die run with root privileges
IWD='$IW dev'
\label{eq:wiface} $$ WIFACE=`echo $IWD \mid grep Interface \mid awk `{print $3}`` SSID=`getopt s: $* \mid awk `{print $2}`` \\
say whoami: $0
  $SSID | && say network: $SSID || die specify network: $MYNAME -s SSID
  $WIFACE | && say interface: $WIFACE || die wireless interface not found
```

```
echo $IWD | grep $SSID > /dev/null && die $SSID connected || say connecting $SSID
$IP link show $WIFACE | grep UP > /dev/null || $IP link set $WIFACE up
$IW $WIFACE scan | grep $SSID > /dev/null || die cannot find $SSID
FINE='grep $SSID $WPACONF'
| $FINE | && say $SSID already configured || $WPAPASS $SSID >> $WPACONF
[ -f $IFCONF ] && auto $IFCONF || die $IFCONF not found
say reboot in six seconds
                           && sleep 3
say reboot in three seconds && sleep 2 say reboot in one second && sleep 1
reboot & die see you later || kill $$
WPASOCKET=/run/wpa supplicant/$WIFACE
WPAPID=/run/wpa_supplicant.$WIFACE.pid
DHCPID=/run/udhcpc.$WIFACE.pid
rm $WPASOCKET
$WPASUPP -B -D wext -i $WIFACE -c $WPACONF || say cannot create $WPASOCKET
DHCP -i WIFACE \parallel die ?
$IP addr show $WIFACE
$IW $WIFACE link
$IP route show
```

The scrip may be downloaded here but it is already installed on the target OS. Specify network id from the command line with a short command-line option s. See next example usage.

```
wifini.sh -s <SSID>
```

The script asks for the network password to store it encrypted for future connections. Once an *internet protocol* (IP) address is assigned to $Raspberry \pi$ network device, the SSH server by Dropbear[6] allows for secure remote login, control and file transfer.

7 outlook

This reports the progress in the development of a custom Linux-based OS for $Raspberry \pi[9]$. The kernel version of this embedded OS is Linux release 5.15. An example GUI application using the Dear ImGui library is built as a part of the OS image. In addition, an SSH server provides remote connection, data transfer and device control. As the OS is now functional, performance and real-time tests are ongoing.

For precision measurements the OS has to be tested not only on the target platform but also on host machines. See for example <META-DIR>/poky/scripts/runqemu.

acronyms

BSP board support package

DHCP dynamic host configuration protocol

 \mathbf{GNU} GNU is not UNIX

 ${f GUI} \hspace{1cm} graphical \hspace{1mm} user \hspace{1mm} interface$

HW hardware

IP internet protocol

LTS $long - term \ support$

OS operating system

POSIX portable operating system interface

SSH secure shell

 \mathbf{SW} software

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